

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 10, 2022

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Kauffman, Vice Chairman Andrus, Representatives Boyle, Kerby, Giddings (Carlson), Marshall, Nichols, Hanks, Cannon, Moon, McCann, Toone, Ruchti, Mathias

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Kauffman called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

H 530: **Sheila French**, Executive Director, Idaho Brewers United, presented **H 530** legislation defining how the Idaho Hop Growers Commission promotes beer products made with Idaho-grown hops. Idaho ranks second in the nation for hop production. Hop acreage and production of hops has grown for nine straight years as has the number of breweries in Idaho. The value of hop production has increased from \$31 million in 2015 to an estimated \$100 million in 2020.

MOTION: **Rep. McCann** made a motion to send **H 530** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Mathias** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

DOCKET NO. 42-0101-2100F: **Casey Chumruea**, Executive Director, Idaho Wheat Commission (IWC), presented **Docket No. 42-0101-2100F**, and said the fee rules do not increase a fee or charge beyond what was previously submitted to and reviewed by the Legislature in the prior rules.

MOTION: **Rep. Moon** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 42-0101-2100F**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Casey Chumruea, Executive Director, Idaho Wheat Commission (IWC), stated the IWC's mission statement is to maximize profitability for Idaho Wheat Producers by investing funds in market development, research, information and education. She explained a 3.5 cent assessment is levied on every bushel of wheat at the first point of sale. She said 38% is used for research, 31% for grower education and communication, 27% for market development and 4% for office operations and capitol outlay. Since 1983 the IWC has contributed \$13,622,713 to the University of Idaho in support of agriculture research and education. Idaho is the only state in the US that grows five out of the six classes of wheat, explaining how Idaho produces 50% of the country's hard white wheat. Hampered by drought and unusually high temperatures, Idaho's total wheat production in bushels in 2021 was 25% lower than the five-year average. Idaho exports 50% of its wheat down the Columbia-Snake river system.

Andi Woolf-Weibye, Executive Director of Idaho Bean Commission, said their mission statement is to promote Idaho's premier reputation as a consistent, top-quality, disease free, dry and green bean seed producer, and promote beans as a nutritious and healthy food. She explained their objectives for this coming year which include promoting Idaho bean seed and bean consumption, conduct grower education and educating consumers. She reported how the pandemic has affected the budget as many events had to be cancelled, but 2021 online bean school classes were successfully held with 350 attendees. Idaho currently is number one in the nation for bean seed production and number five in bean production.

RS 29337:

Rep. Boyle presented **RS 29337**, proposed legislation adding to the definition of Agricultural Operations under the Right to Farm Act to include the ingress and egress of planes to agricultural areas. Right to Farm protects agricultural activities conducted on farmland in urbanizing areas from being subjected to nuisance lawsuits. It is the intent of the legislature to reduce the loss to the state of its agricultural resources by limiting the circumstances under which agricultural operations may be deemed to be a nuisance. Agricultural aircraft must be able to travel to and from agricultural lands and treatment areas to perform their vital functions. With a growing agricultural / urban interface in Idaho, it is important to recognize and protect the ability for agricultural aircraft to access agricultural lands. This legislation does not relieve pilots from Federal Aviation Administration regulations related to low-flying and congested areas.

MOTION:

Rep. Nichols made a motion to introduce **RS 29337**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Representative Kauffman
Chair

Jayne Feik
Secretary